

REVISED APPENDIX B: PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

All design criteria in the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (or Forest Plan) (USDA FS 2007, pages 53–99; 106–115) apply to federal actions on the Allegheny National Forest¹. The proposed action has been designed to be implemented in accordance with Forest Plan forest-wide, Management Area 2.1, Management Area 2.2, and Management Area 3.0 standards and guidelines (USDA-FS 2007, pages 106–115). The Forest Plan is located on the Allegheny National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/allegheny/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5044083>.

Project design features are highlighted applications of the Forest Plan standards and guidelines. A design feature clarifies, where necessary, how these standards and guidelines may apply to specific activities in the action alternatives.

Soil and Water

- On those portions of each stand with group 2 and 3 soils, cutting and skidding are permitted during dry or frozen conditions or during the entire normal operating season using equipment meeting low ground pressure requirements (**USDA-FS 2007, page 73**).
- Portions of stands **824063, 825044, 833047, 833094, 833101, and 833122** contain historic landslides, which could be susceptible to mass movement. Heavy equipment use on slopes greater than 15 percent with soils susceptible to mass movement should occur when soils are dry (**USDA-FS 2007, page 72**).
- Limestone surface armoring of roads (at stream crossings) shall be applied on planned timber haul routes prior to timber hauling (**USDA-FS 2007, page 75**).
- In the following small watersheds, timber harvests shall be staggered to ensure that no more than 25 percent of any of these watersheds would be in the 0 to 5 year age class at any point during implementation of the project and that no more than 25 percent of the basal area within any of these watersheds would be removed in any five year period during implementation of the project (see map 8) (**USDA-FS 2007, page 74**).
 - **Crane Run Lower Tributary 4**
 - **Crane Run Upper Tributary 1**
 - **Crane Run Upper Tributary 2**
 - **Crane Run Upper Tributary 3**
 - **Crane Run Upper Intershed**
 - **East Branch Tionesta Creek Tributary 5**
 - **East Branch Tionesta Creek Tributary 7**
 - **Martin Run Headwaters**
 - **Martin Run Intershed 2**
 - **Martin Run Lower**
 - **Martin Run Tributary 1**
 - **Martin Run Tributary 2**
 - **Martin Run Tributary 3**

¹ Deviation from Forest Plan standards require an amendment to the Forest Plan. No amendments are proposed for this project. Deviations from Forest Plan guidelines are not planned for this project. If deviation from a guideline is needed during implementation, the deviation will be documented in the project file.

- **Martin Run Tributary 4**
- **Pigeon Run Tributary 2**
- **Rock Run Tributary 2**
- **Unnamed Tributary of Crane Run Upper**
- **Unnamed Tributary of Martin Run Headwater**
- **Unnamed Tributary of Martin Run Intershed**

Non-native Invasive Plant Species

- Any areas proposed for ground disturbance that were not surveyed for target plants will be surveyed prior to the disturbance and conducted during the appropriate time of year when plants are identifiable to species (**USDA-FS 2007, page 89**).
- Native, local genotype seeds/plants will be used in restoration (**USDA-FS 2007, page 53**).
- In order to reduce the potential for introduction or spread of non-native invasive plant species, certified weed-free straw will be used for erosion control (**USDA-FS 2007, page 53**).
- In order to reduce the potential for introduction or spread of non-native invasive plant species, an equipment cleaning provision will be included in timber sale and other contracts (**USDA-FS 2007, page 53**).
- Skid trails and landings will be placed in weed free areas (if possible) (**USDA-FS 2007, page 53**).
- If any regional forester sensitive species, federally listed, or plant species with a viability concern is identified prior to or during project implementation, project actions will cease and the district botanist will be notified to determine potential impacts/effects and mitigation measures (**USDA-FS 2007, page 89**).

Wildlife, Botany, and Regional Forester Sensitive Species

- In the event a northern long-eared bat hibernacula or roost tree is discovered the interim 4d rule conservation measures below will be implemented. In addition, the conservation measures in the R9 Programmatic BA will be implemented. Appropriate Forest Plan standard and guidelines on pages 74 to 82 will be implemented. This include standards and guidelines on pages 81 to 82 and 88 for all bat species (**USDA-FS 2007**).

R9 Programmatic Biological Assessment Conservation Measures:

- Designate caves and mines that are occupied by bats as smoke-sensitive targets. Avoid smoke entering these hibernacula when bats are present.
- Within 0.25 miles of known, occupied northern long-eared bat hibernacula, timber harvest will be designed to maintain, enhance, or restore swarming, staging, roosting, and foraging habitat. The future desired condition is that these areas will feature structurally complex, resilient forest communities with a continuous supply of snags, culls, cavities, and other quality roosts.
- Application of herbicides and other pesticides should be planned to avoid or minimize direct and indirect effects to known, occupied threatened, endangered, or sensitive bat hibernacula and maternity roosts.

- Before old buildings, wells, cisterns, and other man-made structures are structurally modified or demolished, they will be surveyed for bats. If an occupied threatened, endangered, or sensitive bat roosting is found, demolition or modification of these structures will not occur when bats are present and the need for alternative roosts will be evaluated.
- Avoid cutting or destroying known, occupied northern long-eared bat maternity roost trees unless they are an immediate safety hazard.
- Where needed to provide drinking sources for bats, create small wetlands or water holes.
- Avoid and protect milkweed encountered in herbaceous openings, along ditchlines/roads, and abandoned well sites when harvesting timber or spraying herbicide. Include milkweed seed/plugs in selected herbaceous opening rehabilitation in the proposed action. Regulate timing of future mowing and prescribe burning to enhance optimum milkweed growing conditions in selected herbaceous openings (**USDA-FS 2007, pages 80–81**).
- In all **silvicultural treatments proposals**, reserve or protect all known apple trees, crabapples, and native shrubs to the degree possible (**USDA-FS 2007, page 65**).
- In all **silvicultural treatments**, do not cut any eastern white pine, except for operational trees (safety). In all **silvicultural treatments in Management Areas 2.1 and 2.2**, do not cut eastern hemlock greater than 18 inches in diameter at breast height. In all **silvicultural treatments in Management Area 3.0**, retain large eastern hemlock for seed and wildlife habitat (**USDA-FS 2007, page 65**).
- In all **aquatic treatment proposals**, do not cut, fell, or damage mast producing trees, such as oak, cucumbertree, and apple, or soft mast producing shrubs. Other deciduous trees will be the primary choice of tree for felling while ensuring a deciduous component remains on site as a seed source. Do not cut/fell or damage conifers greater than 18 inches in diameter at breast height or any white pine. Conifers (excluding white pine) will only be cut/fell where they make up a more than 60 percent of the tree canopy and where they are necessary for the structure and function of the aquatic treatment. In remaining areas, do not cut or fell conifer, except for operational trees (safety) (**USDA-FS 2007, page 65**).
- In all **aquatic treatment proposals**, native plant and shrub communities will be protected/buffered from all aquatic treatments (**USDA-FS 2007, page 65**).
- In all **dispersed recreation site treatments**, protect native vegetation to the degree possible while closing, rehabilitating, and correcting soil and water concerns. This includes, but is not limited to native plants, shrubs, and trees, and wildlife habitat components of conifer, apple trees, and aspen (**USDA-FS 2007, page 65**).
- In all **road decommission treatments**, when implemented protect native vegetation to the degree possible. This includes but is not limited to native plants, shrubs, and trees, and wildlife habitat components of conifer, apple trees, and aspen (**USDA-FS 2007, page 65**).
- In all **wildlife opening rehabilitation treatments** (existing herbaceous openings), protect existing apple trees, native shrubs, fences, and other wildlife structures. Consult with wildlife biologist prior to locating harvest skid trails or landings in openings. Maintain access to all openings. All disturbed/impacted areas will be rehabilitated back to

their existing condition (USDA-FS 2007, page 81).

- In all **prescribed burning treatments** in herbaceous wildlife openings, protect all threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, promote their habitat, and protect existing wildlife improvements and infrastructure, such as wildlife planting and fencing, and den/nesting structures (USDA-FS 2007, page 81).
- In all **aquatic treatment proposals**, avoid felling/damaging any trees which contain cavities (USDA-FS 2007, page 80).
- In all **aquatic treatment proposals**, in order to avoid disturbance to nesting raptors or herons and to avoid felling trees which may contain nests, it is recommended that personnel conducting tree-felling activities remain attentive by scanning the upper canopy of trees to be felled as well as adjacent trees for nests and also by listening/watching for bird species which may show signs of distress/agitation due to proximity to active nests/territories. Furthermore, based on time of year (nesting season), it is recommended that work be tentatively discontinued in areas where wildlife species have been observed exhibiting this behavior (USDA-FS 2007, pages 85-86, and 88).
- In all **brush pile construction** activities, avoid felling or damaging snags and other trees, which may contain cavities (USDA-FS 2007, page 82).
- Implementation of **transportation proposals**, including road construction, reconstruction, realignment, and decommissioning, and **aquatic treatment proposals** will not occur until the sites which will be disturbed are identified and surveyed for potential wildlife habitat attributes. Before implementation occurs, these sites will be surveyed by a biologist, botanist and/or biological technician (USDA-FS 2007, page 89).

Heritage

- Site-specific heritage design features are not listed due to the confidential nature of the information. Standards and guidelines for heritage resources are listed in the Forest Plan and East Branch Tionesta Creek Cultural Resource Report. Appropriate heritage resource personnel will be contacted prior to formalizing any sale or implementation contract or other resource treatments involving ground disturbing activities to include any design features to heritage sites in contracts or agreements (USDA-FS 2007, page 62).
- In any contract or agreement, the following statement will be included, as appropriate: If any previously unknown or unrecorded sites are found during project implementation, any ground disturbing activity will cease, and the appropriate heritage resource personnel notified. A heritage resource specialist will evaluate the situation and determine the proper course of action (USDA-FS 2007, page 62).

Scenery and Recreation

- In stands **831037**, **831038**, and **831051**, reserve areas will be placed along the boundary with the **Tionesta Research Natural Area** to have a more undulating natural-looking boundary instead of a straight line (USDA-FS 2007, page 62).
- Along concern level 1 and 2 travel ways (state routes 6, 66, and 3002, township road 301, forest roads 133, 133E, 149, 152, 195, and 470 and the Allegheny Snowmobile Loop), leave ¼ acre buffer areas or feather edges of openings, as needed (USDA-FS 2009, pages 7–8).

- Log landings shall incorporate screening when viewed from a concern level 1 or 2 travel ways (state routes 6, 66, and 3002, township road 301, forest roads 133, 133E, 149, 152, 195, and 470 and the Allegheny Snowmobile Loop) and be rehabilitated to mimic natural openings (**USDA-FS 2009, pages 7–8**).
- Along concern level 1 and 2 travel ways (state routes 6, 66, and 3002, township road 301, forest roads 133, 133E, 149, 152, 195, and 470 and the Allegheny Snowmobile Loop), slash shall be pulled back 50 feet from the edge of the road or trail, and for an additional 50 feet, slash shall be lopped and scattered to a depth of 3 feet. Treatment should be accomplished within one year of harvesting (**USDA-FS 2009, pages 7–8**).
- All stumps within 50 feet of and visible from state routes 6, 66, and 3002 and forest road 133E (concern level 1 travel way) shall be flush cut (**USDA-FS 2009, pages 7–8**).
- From the centerline of the North Country National Scenic Trail, leave a minimum 100-foot no-cut buffer along both sides of trail (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- No marking paint will be seen from the North Country National Scenic Trail and avoid using blue paint near the North Country National Scenic Trail (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- Minimize trail crossings. Restore the trail to prior condition upon completion of crossing. The North Country National Scenic Trail will not be used for skidding (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- No timber harvesting activities on weekends/holidays in stands **821015, 821054, 824022, 824037, 824057, and 824063** (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- Inform the Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail of contracted timber sales in the vicinity of the North Country National Scenic Trail and put up signage informing hikers of logging activities (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- No tree cutting or felling for the large wood activities will occur within 25 feet of the North Country National Scenic Trail (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- No marking paint will be used for the large wood activities near the North Country National Scenic Trail (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- Large wood activities will cross the North Country National Scenic Trail at only one location using an excavator to complete large wood restoration. The trail crossing will be restored to prior or better condition upon completion of large wood activities (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- Large wood activities will not occur within 300 feet of the North Country National Scenic Trail on weekends/holidays (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).
- While the large wood activities are being implemented on-the-ground, signage will be used along the North Country National Scenic Trail to inform hikers of large wood activities (**USDA-FS 2007, page 61**).

LITERATURE CITED

USDA-Forest Service. 2007. Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. Warren, PA.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 2009. Allegheny National Forest Scenery Implementation Guide, Version 1.2, Warren, PA.